

IN THE SPOTLIGHT INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Create a classroom where the differences among learners are not only seen but recognised as strengths and assets.

In this issue of The Association of People with Disability's newsletter, we highlight our **Inclusive Education (IE)** program and its inspiring batches of children with special needs (CwSNs) to share the transformative power of inclusive education and its impact on their lives.

WHO WE WORK WITH



Children with Special Needs



Teachers



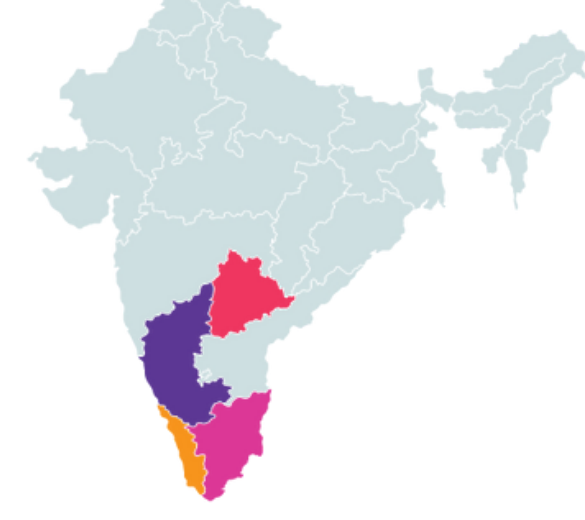
Parents of Children with Special Needs



School Development and Monitoring Committees

OUR APPROACH

APD is committed to creating inclusive educational environments for children with special needs (CwSN) through a community-based approach. Our model focuses on providing comprehensive care and education directly within communities, leveraging the expertise of dedicated teachers and therapists.



By collaborating with other NGOs, government officials, caregivers, and relevant stakeholders, we aim to build a robust ecosystem for inclusive education. Our flagship Shradhanjali Integrated Primary School (SIS) serves as a model for inclusive practices, combining barrier-free infrastructure with advanced technologies. We partner with schools across Karnataka to support CwSN through direct interventions.

We equip educators with the necessary skills through professional development and engage parents as active partners in their child's education through the 'Mother as interventionist' concept.

TESTIMONIAL

Akash's Journey from Home to School



Akash undergoing his training with a member of our APD staff

Akash, diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, was initially confined to bed and transformed through dedicated interventions. Community-based therapists and educators created personalized Rehabilitation and Education Plans. Weekly visits and targeted exercises improved his motor skills and social interactions.

Through a holistic approach, including strengthening exercises, stretching, passive movements, ADLs, and hand-functional activities, Akash gained significant progress in maintaining body stability for up to 4 to 6 hours. He can move his hands, hold objects like water bottles, shirts, and pencils, and has started interacting with others.

With a wheelchair and newfound independence, Akash enthusiastically joined the school. His educational achievements paralleled his physical progress, expressing concepts orally and writing with hand support. Supported by compassionate peers and inclusive initiatives, Akash thrived.

OUR IMPACT

Our inclusive education program has yielded significant positive outcomes. **51% of children** have developed essential literacy (Reading and writing) and numeracy skills. This progress highlights the success of our program and the dedication of teachers, parents, and School Development and Management Committees (SDMCs).

Furthermore, **50% of children** have become more independent through improved functional abilities, leading to better daily routines, school attendance, and social interactions.

6 School Readiness Centres (SRCs) have been set up and activated and 18 schools have enhanced accessibility and created a CwSN-friendly environment, ensuring equal opportunities for all children to access education and therapeutic interventions.

Additionally, we partnered with **Samagra Shikshana Karnataka (SSK)** through an MoU, successfully training **87 Block Inclusive Education Resource Teachers (BIERTs)** across six educational districts (Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban North and South, Kolar, Ramanagara and Belagavi). This first phase directly benefited **10,000 CwSNs** and parents through BIERTs.

In 2023-24 alone,

257

children received learning materials

23

SSLC students received study materials

325

Children with special needs and neuro-typical children are receiving rehabilitation and education services

SNAPSHOTS



Learning activity in SIS



Fancy Dress Competition - Culture of States



School Readiness Centre in Hebbal, developed by APD



Activity to improve Eye Contact

ACHIEVEMENTS

Three new School Readiness Centers (SRC) were established through collaboration with the Department of Education.

Three SRCs were activated by providing educational and therapeutic materials and regular services in the centres.

Launched three new projects (Model School) in collaboration with BIERTs, spanning Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, and Belagavi.

Enhanced 17 schools as sub-centre models to cater to more children by providing educational and therapeutic materials, along with training for teachers and mothers.

Resources Developed By Us

- Nanna Bhashe- 1: A learning book for children with hearing impairment, using signs, pictures, and words to teach Indian Sign Language for 42 basic concepts.
- Breaking Barriers and Building Inclusion: This handbook introduces a general audience to disability issues and common disabilities encountered in schools.
- FAQ on RPWD Act -2016: This comprehensive manual provides answers to 100 frequently asked questions about the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016.
- Samvahana Sethu: Designed for peers of hearing-impaired children, this handbook covers 51 everyday concepts to facilitate communication.
- Disability Poster: This poster visually showcases the 21 disabilities recognized under the RPWD Act, 2016, promoting inclusivity in schools and communities.

Whether it's spectacles or mobility aids, ramps, or prominent signs, we've all come across daily accessibility features that significantly enhance our lives.

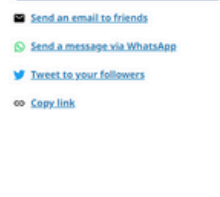
On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we crafted a Pledge that encourages everyone to embrace accessibility, benefiting not only the disabled but also the elderly, individuals recovering from illness and!

Your signature on this Pledge matters - so please click, sign, share, and say #YesToAccess.

I say #YesToAccess for Persons With Disability and the Elderly



Why this petition matters



[Click here](#)



As we embrace these endeavours, APD remains committed to creating an inclusive and accessible society for all.